



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

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Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

Grand Teton National Park News Release

PACK HORSES USED TO EVACUATE INJURED CLIMBER

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced that rangers responded to a call by cell phone to assist an injured climber, 18-year-old Angela Edlinger from New York State, last night, July 29, at 7:00 p.m. Edlinger and her companion, 30-year-old Pete Marsiglio, were descending from a day climb of the Grand Teton when she injured her shin while stepping between two rocks near the Eye of the Needle. The two climbers continued to descend an additional 1,500 feet over approximately 2 miles. They reached the lower half of the Moraine camping zone in Garnet Canyon at which point Edlinger was unable to continue.

Park rangers, who were coincidentally descending from the summit of the Middle Teton to spend the night on the Lower Saddle, were notified to respond to the injured climber. They reached Edlinger about 9:00 p.m. and provided emergency medical care. Since the leg injury was not serious enough to warrant an immediate evacuation, an overnight bivouac was made. This morning, park rangers and Marsiglio helped Edlinger walk to the Platforms area in Garnet Canyon, where two park packers with pack animals met them and carried her by horse out to Lupine Meadows, reaching the trailhead at 1:30 this afternoon.

When assessing medical emergencies during a rescue operation in the backcountry, rangers analyze several options, which are best suited for the circumstances. Helicopter rescues using the short haul technique are warranted when a person is seriously injured; however, non-emergency rescues can be conducted using more traditional methods involving pack animals and hand-carried or wheeled litters. Park personnel are trained in and have the skills for carrying out a variety of rescue techniques.

This climbing party intended to complete a one-day climb of the Grand Teton; they were well prepared for a day in the mountains. Other climbers and a climbing guide camping in Garnet Canyon supplied Edlinger and Marsiglio with sleeping bags and a tent for their unexpected overnight stay.

Backcountry hikers and climbers are reminded to be prepared for emergencies by carrying essential supplies and equipment. Items such as extra clothing, food and water serve backcountry users well in the event that an emergency requires spending more time than originally planned in the outdoors.

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